

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 20, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DAVID AARON

FROM:

LINCOLN P. BLOOMFIELD *trb*

SUBJECT:

Navy Secretary Visit to Argentina (C)

Steve Palmer, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Affairs, just called me in some agitation to say that they had just heard that Secretary Hidalgo will be visiting Argentina shortly and that the President had reportedly approved the visit. Steve made the point that such a visit was not part of the package of Argentinian policy recently agreed to by the system, a package representing a delicate compromise on the basis of which Patt Derian had agreed to stay on. He said that ARA also felt this trip was contrary to the package. (C)

I called Madison Adams, alternate office director in State, who told me that indeed Secretary Hidalgo will be visiting BA on July 2-3 in company with a Vice-Admiral, a navy aide, his wife, etc., as part of a trip including Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Brazil. He further informed me that at the M-B-B meeting State opposed such a visit but DoD was in favor and the vote went in support of a visit to Buenos Aires (but against a visit to Santiago). The Secretary apparently said he would not go to either if he couldn't go to both, but according to Adams the President wants him to go to BA and therefore he is going. He will travel in his own P-3. Adams also said that this information has been leaked to the Argentines, including the arguments at the M-B-B meeting, which has put State in the doghouse with the Argentine Embassy. (C)

I don't know what I can do or recommend, if it is indeed true that the President has authorized this visit. I would only point out that it seems to me to run the risk of unraveling the carefully crafted policy package, in advance of implementing which I had already recommended strongly a well-designed public clarification prior to the Bowdler trip, since there is already so much criticism of our reported change of policy with an implication that we have abandoned our human rights concerns. This visit will obviously fuel that controversy. (C)

cc: H.Owen  
T.Thornton  
R.Pastor  
D.Holm

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Review 6/20/86

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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